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SUBJECT: DECEMBER 1, 2009 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: COPENHAGEN
PREPARATION, CHINA-EU SUMMIT, IAEA RESOLUTION ON IRAN

¶1. Key points at the December 1 MFA press briefing were:

-- At the 12th China-EU Summit in Nanjing, President Hu met with EC President Jose Manuel Barroso and other EU leaders and discussed climate change, sustainable development, and joint responses to the financial crisis.

-- China believes the success of the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen would be based on adherence to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol, and the Bali roadmap.

-- China supports resolving the issue of Iran's expanding uranium enrichment program through dialogue and negotiations.

-- China does not object to third countries developing civil and economic ties with Taiwan as long as they develop official relations that would adhere to the "one China principle."

12th China-EU Summit

¶12. At the December 1 regularly scheduled Foreign Ministry press briefing, Spokesperson Qin Gang briefed on the 12th China-EU Summit hosted by President Hu Jintao in Nanjing on November 30. President Hu, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, and Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt who represented the EU presidency, reported progress in China-EU relations. Qin noted that the summit focused on "comprehensive strategic relations" between the PRC and the EU, including climate change, Renminbi exchange issues, sustainable development, and joint responses to the financial crisis. Qin said the summit illustrated that the largest developing country and the largest community of developed countries should collaborate in addressing global challenges due to "transformational changes" in the international landscape.

Climate Change and Copenhagen

¶13. Turning to climate change issues, Qin listed China's goals for the success of the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen: adherence to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Kyoto Protocol, and the Bali roadmap. Specifically, the UNFCCC principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" should be observed in order to reach consensus. Qin refuted reports that the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs had organized a meeting among developing countries in advance of the Copenhagen Conference. Qin noted the dates of Premier Wen Jiabao's attendance of the Copenhagen Conference were not confirmed.

¶14. Developed countries caused climate change problems and 80 percent of carbon accumulation was caused by these developed countries, said Qin. As a developing country, China was ready to work together with developed countries to address climate change issues. Qin noted that developed countries should establish a reduction plan including financial support and technology transfers to developing countries for sustainable development.

Sanctions on Iran "Not the Goal"

¶ 15. Commenting on Chinese support for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution critical of Iran's nuclear program, Qin said China supported resolving the issue of Iran's uranium enrichment program through dialogue and negotiations. He noted that sanctions on Iran were "not the goal" and that all sides should increase diplomatic efforts to resume talks.

Taiwan Representative Office in Japan

¶ 16. When asked about Taiwan's opening of a representative office in Sapporo, Japan, Qin stated that the PRC did not object to third countries developing civil and economic ties with Taiwan as long as they did not develop official relations that would violate the "one China principle."

Supporting U.S.-DPRK Dialogue

¶ 17. Qin expressed support for dialogue between the DPRK and the United States in the context of reports of the December 8 visit to the DPRK by Special Representative for North Korea Policy Stephen Bosworth. The PRC viewed the visit as within the Six-Party Talks framework and conducive to the resumption of the Six-Party Talks, said Qin.

DPRK Currency Revaluation

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¶ 18. Qin remarked that currency policies were an "internal affair" when commenting on the Democratic Republic of Korea's (DPRK) currency reevaluation. As a "friendly neighbor," China had no comment on this issue would continue economic ties with the DPRK.

HUNTSMAN